

August 17, 2011

Federal Communications Commission  
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
445 12th St., SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Clyburn, Copps, and McDowell:

Custer Township is a town of fewer than 1,000 people in rural eastern Michigan. For years our community has watched as our fellow Michiganders in cities like Flint, Lansing, Detroit, and other, more urban, areas have enjoyed high-speed Internet capability. For years, politicians have promised to bring this technology to rural areas like ours. Many of us are still waiting.

Pending before your commission is a matter, the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile, that could finally bring high-speed broadband access to our community and the thousands like ours around the country that have, at best, unreliable access to this service. Under the terms of the merger agreement AT&T has vowed to spend an additional \$8 billion on its 4G LTE network. Those added dollars would enable the company to bring high-speed wireless access to more than 97 percent of Americans, or 55 million more than under the company's current 4G plans.

In addition to serving as a supervisor for Custer Township, I'm a farmer. Access to high-speed wireless broadband is an important tool that would enable me and my fellow farmers to promote, sell, and distribute our products more effectively across the state, country, and world. As farmers we don't spend all day in an office, and this merger would allow us to have wireless Internet service from anywhere. It would be a great advantage for our families, as well.

My fellow farmers and I are counting on you. Please support the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Knoerr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent than the last name "Knoerr".

John Knoerr, Supervisor  
Custer Township, Mich.